

**Co-Manager/Tribal Update for
Puget Sound Steelhead
Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)
Tuesday, October 24, 2006 Stakeholder Meeting**

Will Beattie, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, has taken the lead to assist WDFW in the process to solicit tribal participation in the steelhead resource management plan.

- Organized meeting in September with WDFW and Tulalip/Snohomish staff to discuss the development of a Stillaguamish/Snohomish watershed plan.
- Met with several tribes via teleconferencing throughout Puget Sound to discuss the steelhead RMP
 - Muckleshoot
 - Suquamish
 - Puyallup
 - Nisqually
 - Hood Canal tribes – Skokomish/Jamestown
 - Strait of Juan de Fuca tribes – Lower Elwah/Port Gamble
 - Nooksack

Both groups, state and tribes, would like to have internal policy meetings before convening together in order to discuss process (i.e. ground rules, etc.)

- Tribes – Third week in October
- State – November 1st

RESULTS:

- Tribes are willing to be part of the development of a steelhead RMP
- Tribes are comfortable with WDFW taking the lead on this effort
- Some tribes will difficulty with the WDFW timeline
- Any changes to steelhead management will be made on a co-manager level
- State is urged to move forward as quickly as possible to engage the tribes before the end of the year.
State/tribes will be involved in pre-season salmon management planning after the first of the year and may be available for RMP planning.

PROCESS:

- On October 16, 2006, WDFW received the go ahead for regional fish program managers to proceed with engaging the tribes on a technical level to develop the watershed plans.
- Policy meetings will follow technical meetings as watershed plans are developed.